



BY CHARLES M. WILLIAMS, SR.

In this paper I intend to avoid in particular a recital of the horrors of the memorable combat which occurred in the early morning of February 25, 1862, between John J. Pleasants and Thomas Ritchie, Jr. This I shall do pretty much after the manner of the French classical dramatists, who never exhibit sanguinary conflicts on the stage, but leave them to the imagination of the audience. The prime cause which induced Pleasants to call Ritchie out was the final letter of the latter, which denounced the former as a coward. "Twas said at the time that William F. Ritchie was absent, but had been in charge of the Enquirer no such provocation would have been used. A few years before he had stepped in between his father and the Whig editor, and but for the friendly interposition of James Lyons and General Pegram, an assault would undoubtedly have been made by him on Pleasants. The affair, so honorably adjusted by the satisfaction of the Enquirer, was indignantly alluded to by the junior editor and said, "He was absent from the city when the offensive article appeared in that paper, and thus notices it in a letter addressed to his friend and associate, Charles Maurice Smith. "There is one circumstance which embarrasses me in the reply which I propose to make to that article. It is that, as I have reason to know the elder of the two brothers, who now conduct the Enquirer, was in the city of Washington when it was prepared and published. He knew nothing of it, and I would have been, as I verily believe, that his better taste and more liberalized understanding would have altogether disapproved its vulgarity and injustice. His sense of honor would have restrained him from offering wanton and gratuitous insult, and his delicacy and chivalry from advertising to a past transaction, amicably composed by mutual friends, holding his honor and mine. For the time, in their custody, and whose own honor was pledged that neither his or mine had suffered or could suffer by the composition. I am sensible of the extreme delicacy of the ground upon which I tread; but that gentleman, I trust, will understand that my motive is to avoid injustice, not to escape responsibility."

**For Political Service.**  
This tribute to the virtues of William F. Ritchie is characteristic of its writer. William was the senior brother of Tom by several years. His larger experience of public affairs and finer discrimination of human character fitted him admirably for political service in the conduct of a newspaper. He was a political writer of much force, one of whose articles was said by Andrew Stevenson to be the best presentation of the principles of his party that had ever appeared in print. In 1852 he wedded the accomplished daughter of Samuel G. Ogden, of New York. Mrs. Anna Cora Mowatt, Her literary productions are of the first rank in our American literature.

American literature. The Cottage in which Mr. and Mrs. Ritchie dwelt was in the French Garden, on the west line of Ninth Street. When the matter between Pleasants and Ritchie had gone beyond those preliminaries of discussion that are usual in such cases, the quarrel having been thrown down by the latter—public expectation was not disappointed by the appearance of the enraged Whig editor on the streets. He carried a cane under his arm, and was accompanied usually by his nephew, Albert Pleasants, or Charles Maurice Smith. He passed the Enquirer office several times looking evidently for his adversary. The Governor, William Smith, met him on one of these occasions to whom he introduced Charles Maurice Smith. "Tom Augustus," said the scene from the office window of John Archard, turned to the company therein, and remarked, "Smith, Smith, Smith, Smith." Whereupon, as he declared, they all laughed at his witticism.

The twenty-second of February occurred on a Sunday. The celebration was postponed till the ensuing Monday at which time all the city companies were on parade in the Capitol Square, the horse outside, but nearby, on Grace Street. I shall now let Wickham describe the scene—a sworn statement—that had been shifted from the streets to the parade ground.

"Soon after I had arrived at the right of the artillery company, I saw Mr. Pleasants approaching. He came along the rear of the troops through the trees, where there were few spectators—the crowd being, as might be supposed, would be the case, in front. His manner was very striking—all who knew Mr. Pleasants will easily recollect that his usual gait was remarkably slow, with his head depressed, like a man in thought. On this occasion his head was erect, and his gait quick, and his manner animated, and his face pale—the paleness of a man under great excitement, and in a rage. I had read the pieces which had appeared from time to time in the newspapers, the purport of which was sufficient to say that having this in mind, I had no doubt of his object in approaching that place. He was accompanied by a young gentleman whom I did not know, who was then standing as near to Mr. Ritchie, who was in position in his company, as I am to the gentleman who stands yonder (pointing to a person standing between twenty or thirty feet from the witness). As Mr.

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120 East Broad, PHONE 1099.

Pleasants was approaching, he discovered me, and came immediately up and introduced his companion.

**Fine Sarcasm.**

I immediately and without preface began, "Well, Pleasants, you have selected your time and place admirably. You have come here to avail an officer in presence of his company, when on parade—an officer of the old artillery company—one as little likely, to say the least, as any other, to submit to such an indignity. You have come here when the best part of the population of Richmond is assembled on the public square, the troops displayed, with the Capitol in front, and the Governor's house thrown open, and all things prepared for a proper celebration of a great national day. You have come to disturb the celebration by committing a great outrage." He answered, "No, Wickham—no, public opinion would not sustain it." "No," indeed it would not," I said. "Here there was a pause between us; for, as will be clearly understood, the conversation was not of a nature to be very brisk. After a while I said, there is but one single circumstance that could afford any semblance of justification to such a proceeding, and that is, that nobody could say that Ritchie is not armed; for all can see that he has a sword by his side. He replied, "That was exactly the course of my thoughts. "But," said I, "there is nothing in that; for nobody can be so ignorant and stupid as not to know that Ritchie is by this

the challenge issued forth I do not know; but I am sure that Ritchie's reply was written in the file old mansion then owned and occupied by Dr. John Brockenbrough, a close friend of the veteran editor of the Enquirer. This property passed later to the ownership of Lewis D. Crenshaw, and from him to a third party, who placed it in the occupancy of President Davis. Judge Crenshaw, aware that a hostile meeting was imminent, posted trusty officers on every road leading out of Richmond, but overlooked the one that was taken to the Southside by way of Mayo's Bridge. This, I happen to know, was a great grief to him, as was one of Pleasants' friends and admirers. The place appointed for the combat is somewhat altered now. There is but one mill-race instead of two; no lawn grounds; no trees overhanging the swift-moving current that fed factory and mill.

**The Duel.**

At break of day, Wednesday, the 25th of February, 1862, Ritchie took a position between two canals, two hundred yards above Hull Street, and held it fifteen minutes before the arrival of Pleasants. Upon surveying with his eye the ground, the latter deemed it best to take a position higher up the canal in order to be well beyond pistol range of the factory and its machine workers. In so doing he had to pass within a few feet of his opponent—the space between canal and canal not exceeding twenty-five or thirty

feet. Shot guns, rifles and muskets neither adversary might use according to the terms of the cartel, but side arms were allowed. When the parties had armed, Ritchie's belt upheld four revolvers of the Allen stamp, a pair of horse pistols, and girded to his side was his artillery sword. The arms of Pleasants consisted of two Derringer pistols, a revolver, a Bowie knife under his vest, and a sword cane. The former had two seconds on the ground, one of whom, William Scott was withdrawn when it became known that Pleasants appeared with one, Peter Jefferson Archer.

**HOUSE IN WHICH PLEASANTS DIED.**

Mr. Wallace says: A gentleman of my acquaintance, whose recollection is clear and positive, tells me that he accompanied his father to the house situated on the northeast corner of Broad and Eleventh Streets, and heard the moans and groans of Pleasants as he lay dying there. Dr. W. W. Parker, he further says, occupied the premises subsequently. It is quite likely that the friends of the editor thought it advisable to have his wounds examined and dressed out of sight of his family rather than at his home on Governor Street.

The report of the trial is silent on the subject, and all of those who testified to having been with Pleasants in his dying moments have passed away. This witness of ours only remains.

(line armed and prepared for you.")

**To Make an Attack.**

After a short silence I said, you surely do not mean to make an attack here; to which he said, "Why, no; but d—m the fellow, I can't find him." I then said, now, Pleasants, get rid of your idea; Ritchie is not the person to be skunked from an adversary. He is as easily to be an adversary as any other man whatever. The former had two seconds on the ground, one of whom, William Scott was withdrawn when it became known that Pleasants appeared with one, Peter Jefferson Archer.

Tom Deane, as he was familiarly called by his friends, had been begged by Dr. Warner to go to the field as a mutual friend, and though disinclined at first, yielded to the surgeon's persuasion.

But previously he had been requested by Greenhow to go as a mutual friend, he declined. He then asked the latter if the matter could not be adjusted, if Ritchie would not be willing to withdraw the epithet of coward applied to Pleasants in case his adversary should come upon the field. His reply was that Ritchie conscientiously believed Pleasants to be a coward. Mr. Archer had also made a proposition to the other side, which was being considered when Deane arrived. "Thinking an accommodation still probable, he approached the place where Ritchie, Greenhow and Scott stood, and in view of the fact that he had expressed himself pleased. He then renewed his former proposition; Greenhow replied, "that he would keep his friend there fifteen minutes and no longer." Greenhow was impracticable in another respect; for when Deane suggested the propriety of moving higher up, as they were in the way of the cotton factory, he replied that the ground had been measured, and he would not go any farther.

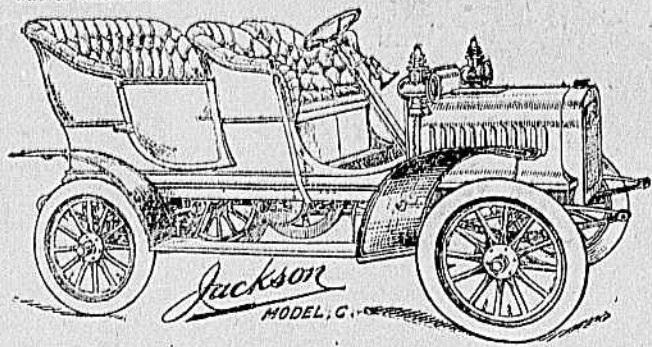
Ritchie had no advantage of position, for the field was clear and the sun not risen. The firmness of Greenhow, gave Ritchie, must be admitted, the advantage of position. Besides, he had the advice of Scott, who lurked behind a nearby tree and prompted him when to shoot, and when to draw his sword. The behavior of this young man on that occasion has been severely censured by disinterested persons, who believed that it was not in accord with the code of honor. Another advantage fell to the lot of Ritchie. He awaited an attack and had ample time to deliver his shots before his enemy could be well up to him. He opened fire upon Pleasants at thirty yards distance, again at fifteen yards, when the latter delivered his shot, and still advancing fired his second within six or seven feet of the former. It was at this second fire that Dr. Warner exclaimed, "Ritchie is a dead man."

A mystery has always hung over the issue of this second shot. In his dying declaration Pleasants said he had secretly withdrawn the ball from his second pistol, and retained the other for the purpose of holding Ritchie in jeopardy. Pleasants, though suffering from wounds that proved to be fatal, walked with his friends over the bridge to the toll house, where a carriage awaited him.

From what house or place

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ANNUAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1905. OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE FIRE ASSOCIATION OF PHILADELPHIA, ORGANIZED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, MADE FOR THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, IN PURSUANCE TO THE LAWS OF VIRGINIA.

President—E. C. IRWIN.  
Secretary—J. C. GARRIGUES.  
Principal office—407 AND 408 WALNUT STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA.  
General Agent in Virginia—W. W. HARDWICKE, residence, RICHMOND, VA.  
Organized or Incorporated, MARCH 27, 1830; commenced business, SEPTEMBER 1, 1817.

Amount of capital stock subscribed \$500,000.00  
Amount of capital stock paid up in cash \$500,000.00

Amount of capital stock paid up in cash \$500,000.00  
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Value of real estate owned by the company \$1,375,728.70  
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| 1812  | 25,000 00 | 97,800 00 |
| Mission Pacific Ry. Co. 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, coupon, 1917                                  | 25,000 00 | 16,375 00 |
| Newark Passenger Ry. Co. first consolidated 6 per cent. bonds, 5 per cent. 1920                         | 22,000 00 | 25,180 00 |
| Northern Pacific R. R. prior lien bonds, 4 per cent. 1907   | 21,000 00 | 33,850 00 |
| Ohio River R. R. Co. 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, 1903   | 18,000 00 | 38,800 00 |
| Onondaga County, N. Y. 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, 1913   | 60,000 00 | 40,000 00 |
| The People's R. R. of Syracuse, N. Y. 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, 1913                            | 18,000 00 | 14,835 00 |
| Pennsylvania Steel Equipment Trust 5 per cent. bonds, 1913  | 25,000 00 | 35,000 00 |
| Pennsylvania R. R. Co. convertible 3 1/2 per cent. bonds, 1913  | 60,000 00 | 61,700 00 |
| Philadelphia City Passenger Ry. Co. 5 per cent. gold bonds, coupon, 1913                                | 60,000 00 | 62,700 00 |
| Philadelphia Co. consolidated mortgage and lateral trust 5 per cent. gold bonds, coupon, 1913           | 25,000 00 | 26,462 00 |
| Philadelphia and West Chester Traction Co. bonds, coupon, 4 per cent. 1914                              | 25,000 00 | 32,000 00 |
| Pittsburg, Mo. and Greenburg, Mo. R. R. Co. 5 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds, coupon, 1913         | 25,000 00 | 25,000 00 |
| Reading Co. 4 per cent. general mortgage gold bonds, 1913   | 60,000 00 | 61,700 00 |
| Schenectady and Troy, N. Y. 5 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds, coupon, 1913                         | 25,000 00 | 25,987 50 |
| Seneca and Rome, N. Y. R. Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                                    | 60,000 00 | 60,875 00 |
| Southern Ry. Co. Equipment Notes, 4 per cent. Series A, 1917  | 60,000 00 | 60,000 00 |
| St. Joseph Ry., Light, Heat and Power Co. first mortgage gold bonds, coupon, 5 per cent. 1917           | 60,000 00 | 62,000 00 |
| St. Louis and San Francisco R. R. Gold Equipment Notes, Series A, 5 per cent. coupon, 1917              | 23,000 00 | 23,000 00 |
| St. Louis and San Francisco R. R. Co. 4 per cent. Equipment Notes, Series A, coupon, 1918               | 20,000 00 | 24,825 00 |
| Terminal R. R. Association of St. Louis, Mo. consolidated mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1914         | 75,000 00 | 91,600 00 |
| The Toledo, St. Clair and Detroit Ry. Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                        | 10,000 00 | 11,375 00 |
| Toledo and Ohio Central Ry. Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                                  | 60,000 00 | 45,500 00 |
| Trenton, N. J. Consolidated mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913  | 20,000 00 | 21,800 00 |
| United Railways Gold Trust Certificates, 4 per cent. 1910   | 20,000 00 | 25,300 00 |
| United Traction Co. of Pittsburgh, general mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1917                        | 60,000 00 | 63,000 00 |
| Wabash R. R. Co. (Omaha Div.) first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1911                               | 25,000 00 | 21,875 00 |
| West Penn Ry. Co. 5 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds, coupon, 1913                                   | 25,000 00 | 25,000 00 |
| Wheeling Ry. Co. 6 per cent. first mortgage gold bonds, coupon, 1912                                    | 20,000 00 | 21,300 00 |
| Wheeling and Lake Erie R. R. Co. first lien gold car trust certificates, Series A, 4 1/2 per cent. 1910 | 25,000 00 | 25,000 00 |
| Wheeling Traction Co. 5 per cent. consolidated mortgage gold bonds, 1913                                | 60,000 00 | 60,000 00 |
| Wilmington and Chester Traction Co. collateral trust gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                       | 50,000 00 | 52,500 00 |
| Wilmington and East Philadelphia Street Ry. Co. 5 per cent. first mortgage bonds, coupon, 1913          | 60,000 00 | 65,625 00 |
| Chicago Southern Water and Light Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1910                        | 10,000 00 | 12,000 00 |
| Chicago Edison Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1910  | 10,000 00 | 12,000 00 |
| Edison Electric Light Co. Trust, 5 per cent. 1910   | 10,000 00 | 14,400 00 |
| Harborside Light, Heat and Power Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1911                        | 25,000 00 | 25,000 00 |
| Laclede Gaslight Co. refunding and extension mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1911                      | 25,000 00 | 26,987 50 |
| Lehigh Valley R. R. Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                                     | 25,000 00 | 25,750 00 |
| Passaic Steel Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913  | 50,000 00 | 47,500 00 |
| Pikes Peak Hydro-Electric Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913                                    | 25,000 00 | 25,750 00 |
| Trenton Gas and Electric Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1910                                | 40,000 00 | 43,400 00 |
| United Gas and Electric Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1910                                 | 2,500 00  | 3,500 00  |
| Westinghouse Electric and Mfg. Co. gold debenture certificates, 5 per cent. 1913                        | 24,000 00 | 25,200 00 |
| West Chester Lighting Co. first mortgage gold bonds, 5 per cent. 1910                                   | 20,000 00 | 21,800 00 |
| Chester R. R. Co. stock, 70 shares  | 3,500 00  | 4,217 50  |
| Illinois Southern Ry. Co. common stock, 300 shares  | 30,000 00 | 625 00    |
| Pennsylvania R. R. stock, 1,000 shares  | 60,000 00 | 71,875 00 |
| Philadelphia, Germantown and Norristown R. R. Co. stock, 200 shares                                     | 18,150 00 | 52,525 00 |
| Philadelphia Traction Co. stock, 500 shares   | 25,000 00 | 60,250 00 |
| Cambria Steel Co. stock, 200 shares   | 1,800 00  | 12,400 00 |
| General Asphalt Co. of America preferred stock, 5 per cent. 1910  | 60,000 00 | 20,000 00 |
| Passaic Steel Co. stock, 500 shares   | 20,000 00 | 125 00    |
| Philadelphia Bourse, 20 shares  | 375 00    | 62 50     |
| Philadelphia Bourse, 20 shares  | 15,000 00 | 6,500 00  |
| Pikes Peak Electric Co. stock, 188 shares   | 2,500 00  | 2,387 50  |
| Underwriters Salvage and Insurance Co. preferred stock, 25 shares                                       | 2,500 00  | 2,387 50  |
| United Gas and Electric Co. common stock, 15 shares   | 1,500 00  | 314 00    |
| Union National Bank stock, 150 shares   | 15,000 00 | 35,500 00 |

Total par and market value (carried out at market value) \$3,806,175 00 \$4,122,178 57 \$4,122,178 57

COLLATERAL LOANS.

Per Value. Market Value. Amount Loaned Thereon.

\$3,000 mortgage, premises 219 Bennett Street, N. Y. 35,000 35,000 35,000

250 shares Merchants National Bank stock, N. Y. 25,000 35,000 50,000

75 shares United States R. R. and Canal Co. stock, 1913 7,500 18,875 50,000

Diamond State Steel Co. first mortgage bonds, 5 per cent. 1913 11,000 7,700 25,000

300 shares Union Pacific R. R. Co. 20,000 30,100 25,000

25,000 Rochester Ry. and Lighting Co. 5 per cent. bonds 2,000 2,070 25,000

400 shares Reading Co. second pref. 20,000 19,400 56,000

50 shares Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co. 2,500 5,800 56,000

25,000 Pennsylvania R. R. Co. 5 per cent. bonds 5,000 6,550 12,000

100 shares Union Pacific R. R. Co. 10,000 16,000 12,000

1,000 Rochester Ry. and Lighting Co. 5 per cent. bonds 1,000 1,035 20,000

30 shares Phoenix Trust Co. 2,000 14,300 20,000

100 shares Pennsylvania R. R. Co. 5 per cent. bonds 5,000 6,550 25,000

25 shares United Gas and Electric Co. 5 per cent. bonds 5,000 11,700 25,000